

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06784 291601Z

17

ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ST-01 FSE-00 L-03 PER-03 /019 W

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R 291536Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4359

UNCLAS TUNIS 6784

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ABUD ATRN EFIN OSCI TS AFSP

SUBJECT: USE TUNISIAN DINARS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

REF: STATE 216159

1. HAVE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED GAO DECISION B184136 REGARDING USE OF FOREIGN CARRIERS FOR TRAVEL FOR WHICH ONLY FOREIGN CURRENCY IS AVAILABLE AND WHEN AMERICAN CARRIERS WILL NOT ACCEPT SUCH CURRENCY. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING GAO DECISION APPLIES ONLY RPT ONLY TO TRAVEL FUNDED UNDER EXCESS FOREIGN CURRENCY APPROPRIATIONS AND DOES NOT RPT NOT APPLY TO DOLLAR-FUNDED TRAVEL. IF THIS READING OF DECISION NOT CORRECT, PLEASE ADVISE.

2. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS IN FINDING SOLUTION TO TRAVEL PROBLEMS OF SURPLUS FOREIGN CURRENCY PROGRAM (SFCP). ASSUME THAT ALL AGENCIES WITH SFCP'S HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF GAO DECISION B-184136.

3. EMBASSY APPROACHED J.C. HUDEBOURG, DIRECTOR OF AIR FRANCE, TUNISIA, RE HIS COOPERATION IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON OFFICE AIR FRANCE TO ACCEPT U.S.-OWNED DINARS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO AND THROUGH TUNISIA. HE SAW NO DIFFICULTIES WITH TRAVEL COMMENCING IN TUNISIA AS LOCAL AIR FRANCE OFFICE PRESENTLY ACCEPTING DINARS FOR ALL TRAVEL ORIGINATING HERE. LOCAL AIR FRANCE DIRECTOR ALSO STATED HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS WITH AIR FRANCE, WASHINGTON, ACCEPTING GTR'S PAYABLE IN DINARS FOR TRAVEL FALLING UNDER GAO UNCLASSIFIED

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DECISION AND HAD ALREADY ON AUGUST 10 WRITTEN HIS

WASHINGTON COUNTERPARTS REQUESTING THEM TO SEND  
BILLINGS TO AIR FRANCE, TUNIS, FOR PRESENTATION TO  
EMBASSY FOR PAYMENT.

4. WILL DISCUSS NEW REGULATION WITH NEW DIRECTOR  
ALITALIA AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN TUNIS.

5. PLEASE ADVISE RESULTS DEPARTMENT'S APPROACH WITH  
AIR FRANCE, WASHINGTON, RE THEIR AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT  
DINARS FOR TRAVEL TO AND THROUGH TUNISIA.  
MULCAHY

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